IN THE CLAIMS:

1.   (Previously Presented) Method of processing data which represents a sequence of pictures, previously encoded and decoded, comprising the steps of:

examining pixels within a picture of said sequence to detect edge pixels and non-edge pixels;

choosing from among the detected non-edge pixels, a pixel to be filtered; and

replacing the chosen pixel with a pixel that is selected from among said chosen pixel and at least one pixel of said pixels within a picture in immediate vertical, horizontal or diagonal adjacency with said chosen pixel.

2.   (Previously Presented) A method of processing data as claimed in claim 1, wherein the selected pixel is the median pixel of a set having an odd number of members from among said detected non-edge pixels, at least one of said odd number of members being said chosen pixel, said odd number of members comprising said at least one pixel in immediate vertical, horizontal or diagonal adjacency.

3.   (Original) A method of processing data as claimed in claim 1, wherein the method is applied to the luminance component of the pixels of said picture.

4.   (Original) A method of processing data as claimed in claim 1, wherein a pixel is detected as an edge pixel if a magnitude representative of a gradient of the pixel is greater than a predetermined threshold.

5.   (Original) A method of processing data as claimed in claim 4, wherein a pixel is detected as an edge pixel if the horizontal component of a gradient of said pixel is greater than the vertical component of said gradient and if the modulus of said gradient is

greater than both the modulus of the gradient of the adjacent pixel on the left and the modulus of the gradient of the adjacent pixel on the right.

6.   (Original) A method of processing data as claimed in claim 4, wherein a pixel is detected as an edge pixel if the vertical component of a gradient of said pixel is greater than the horizontal component of said gradient and if the modulus of said gradient is greater than both the modulus of the gradient of the adjacent lower pixel and the modulus of the gradient of the adjacent upper pixel.

7.   (Previously Presented) A method of processing data as claimed in claim 1, wherein a pixel is filtered if the number of edge pixels in a defined neighborhood of the pixel lies within a defined range.

8.   (Original) A filtering device for carrying out a method as claimed in claim 1.

9.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium ~~comprising a software module for~~ storing a set of instructions executable under the control of a computer or a processor to~~and provided for~~ performing at least ~~some of~~ the steps of the processing method as claimed in claim 1.